

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A scanning microscope system comprising:
  - a) a scanning microscope comprising:
    - a light source that emits an exciting light beam which is suitable for exciting an energy state in [[the]] a specimen and that emits a stimulating light beam configured for generating stimulated emission in the specimen, whereby the exciting light beam and the stimulating light beam overlap in a focal region at least partially~~[[,]]~~ ; and
    - at least one detector configured for detection of [[the]] emitted light proceeding from the specimen; and
  - b) a module that is positionable in [[the]] a beam path of the scanning microscope and that comprises multiple optical elements, pre-aligned with respect to each other, which shape the stimulating light beam,
  - wherein the module is adjustable with respect to the scanning microscope.
2. (Currently Amended) The scanning microscope system according to Claim 1, wherein the module comprises a housing.
3. (Currently Amended) The scanning microscope system according to Claim 1, further comprising an alignment device for alignment of the module with respect to the scanning microscope.
4. – 6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The scanning microscope system according to Claim 1, wherein the module comprises optics for at least one of spreading ~~[[or]]~~ and focusing the stimulating light beam.
8. (Currently Amended) The scanning microscope system according to Claim 1, wherein the module comprises at least one retardation plate.
9. (Currently Amended) The scanning microscope system according to Claim 1, wherein the module comprises means for influencing the shape of the focus of the stimulating light beam in ~~[[the]]~~ a focal plane.
10. (Currently Amended) The scanning microscope system according to Claim 9, wherein the means for influencing the shape of the focus of the stimulating light beam generate an internally hollow focus.
11. (Canceled)
12. (Currently Amended) The module according to Claim ~~[[11]]~~ 26, further comprising a housing.
13. (Canceled)
14. (Currently Amended) The module according to Claim ~~[[11]]~~ 26, further comprising an alignment device for alignment of the module with respect to the scanning microscope.
15. (Canceled)
16. (Currently Amended) The module according to Claim ~~[[11]]~~ 27, wherein the stimulating light source is a laser.
17. (Currently Amended) The module according to Claim ~~[[11]]~~ 26, further comprising optics for at least one of spreading ~~[[or]]~~ and focusing the stimulating light beam.

18. (Currently Amended) The module according to Claim [[11]] 26, further comprising means for influencing the shape of the focus of the stimulating light beam in [[the]] a focal plane.
19. (Currently Amended) The module according to Claim 18, ~~wherein the means for influencing the shape of the focus of the stimulating light beam consists essentially of a~~ further comprising at least one retardation plate.
20. (Original) The module according to Claim 18, wherein the means for influencing the shape of the focus of the stimulating light beam in the focal plane generate an internally hollow focus.
21. (New) The scanning microscope system according to Claim 1, wherein the multiple optical elements comprise a liquid crystal array.
22. (New) The scanning microscope system according to Claim 1, wherein the multiple optical elements comprise a retardation plate that is transilluminated by a portion of the stimulating light beam.
23. (New) A scanning microscope system comprising:
- a) a scanning microscope comprising:
    - an exciting light source that emits an exciting light beam which is suitable for exciting an energy state in a specimen; and
    - at least one detector configured for detection of emitted light proceeding from the specimen; and
  - b) a module that is positionable in a beam path of the scanning microscope, the module comprising:
    - a stimulating light source that emits a stimulating light beam configured for generating stimulated emission in the specimen, whereby the exciting light beam and the stimulating light beam overlap in a focal region at least partially; and
    - multiple optical elements, pre-aligned with respect to each other and to the stimulating light source, which shape the stimulating light beam,

wherein the module is adjustable with respect to the scanning microscope.

24. (New) The scanning microscope system according to Claim 23, wherein the multiple optical elements comprise a liquid crystal array.
25. (New) The scanning microscope system according to Claim 23, wherein the multiple optical elements comprise a retardation plate that is transilluminated by a portion of the stimulating light beam.
26. (New) A module for a scanning microscope system comprising:
  - multiple optical elements, pre-aligned with respect to each other, which are configured to shape a stimulating light beam,
  - wherein the module is configured to connect to the scanning microscope so that it is adjustable with respect to the scanning microscope and positionable in a beam path of the scanning microscope, and
  - wherein the scanning microscope comprises:
    - a light source that emits an exciting light beam which is suitable for exciting an energy state in a specimen and that emits said stimulating light beam configured for generating stimulated emission in the specimen, whereby the exciting light beam and the stimulating light beam overlap in a focal region at least partially; and
    - at least one detector configured for detection of emitted light proceeding from the specimen.
27. (New) A module for a scanning microscope system comprising:
  - a stimulating light source that emits a stimulating light beam configured for generating stimulated emission in a specimen; and
  - multiple optical elements, pre-aligned with respect to each other, which are configured to shape the stimulating light beam,
  - wherein the module is configured to connect to the scanning microscope so that it is adjustable with respect to the scanning microscope and positionable in a beam path of the scanning microscope, and
  - wherein the scanning microscope comprises:

an exciting light source that emits an exciting light beam which is suitable for exciting an energy state in the specimen, whereby the exciting light beam and the stimulating light beam overlap in a focal region at least partially; and

at least one detector configured for detection of emitted light proceeding from the specimen.